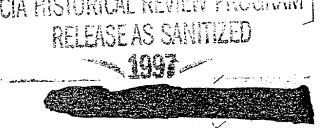


## CUBA

- I. Estrangement--now virtually complete--between Castro and Venezuelan

  President Betancourt further isolates Castro from other Latin

  American governments. Venezuela had been Fidel's closest ally.
  - A. Betancourt made clear his complete disenchantment with Castro during 26 April conversation with Ambassador Sparks.
    - 1. He said he would be happy to play leading role in focusing hemisphere attention on Cuban problem, provided Dominican dictator ousted first.
    - 2. Pro-Castro elements in Venezuela are influential and capable of causing considerable difficulties for Betancourt's regime.
  - B. Cuban government propaganda media now attacking Betancourt.
    - 1. One broadcaster accused Venezuelan president of being democrat and revolutionary "only in small degree" and an anti-Communist solely to curry favor with US.
    - 2. Castro himself, in May Day speech, derided "one Latin
      American leader" (obviously Betancourt) for suggesting that
      only elected governments should be in OAS.
    - 3. Castro's propaganda has already vilified other democratic
      Latin American presidents (Frondizi, Lleras Camargo,
      Alessandri, Lopez Mateos) as lackeys of imperialism.
- II. Castro regime expanding propaganda media abroad.
  - A. Prensa Latina opening offices in London, Paris, and Prague, according to knowledgeable CIA source.



- B. Havana radio broadcast reports Ministry of Communications plans for shortwave radio station "to bring truth about Cuban revolu-
- C. Recently defected attache of Cuban embassy Mexico revealed that embassy devoted principle efforts to propaganda and that it supports Communist-sponsored agitation in Mexico.
- Cuban Foreign Minister
  Roa asked to be informed on "possibility of bringing Afro-Asian film festival to Cuba."
- III. Sino-Soviet bloc ties with Cuba becoming closer.

tion to all Latin America."

- A. Soviet Ambassador Bazykin in Mexico prepared to leave for Cuba as soon as he gets expected instructions from Moscow, according to usually reliable source.
  - 1. Same source reported earlier that "important announcement" would be made jointly by two governments on 8 May.
- B. Blas Roca, Cuban Communist Secretary General, met with Mao Tse-tung on 29 April, during visit to China.
- C. "Peace" front in China cabled Cuba 30 April wishing success to "Support Cuban Conference" (Castro-sponsored meeting of "democratic political and intellectual personalities of hemisphere") then meeting in Havana.
- IV. May Day celebrations less well attended than expected and crowds appeared somewhat apathetic.
  - A. Castro's address was strongly anti-US as expected, but contained nothing he had not said before.

